

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 PA-01 STR-07 FTC-01 JUSE-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 /131 W

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R 292214Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0346
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01150

PARIS PASS USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, OECD, EGEN
SUBJECT: OECD INFORMAL CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION OF
PREPARATIONS FOR APRIL 11 TUAC/BIAC CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) PARIS 7680, B) PARIS 8506

1. SUMMARY: OECD CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSED INFORMALLY
MARCH 28 PREPARATIONS FOR TUAC/BIAC CONSULTATIONS
APRIL 11 AND QUESTION OF PRESS RELATIONS. GROUP CON-
SENSUS SUPPORTED STATEMENT TO TUAC/BIAC ON WORK OF
GROUP CHAIRED BY LEVY (SWITZERLAND), BASED ON SECRE-
TARIAT REPORT. USDEL MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS ON
UNDERSTANDING THAT DELS WILL NOT GIVE THEIR OWN VIEWS
ON THE SEVEN ISSUES LEVY SUMMARIZES, NOR WOULD LEVY
DISCUSS SPECIFIC CASES. GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT DRAFT
PRESS RELEASE (REF A) WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE,
ALTHOUGH NOT REPEAT NOT PARA 8 DISCUSSION OF ISSUES,
AND THAT REPLACEMENT TEXT SHOULD BE CIRCULATED PRIOR
TO APRIL 11. US BLOCKED ANY AUTHORIZATION TO ACTING
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CIME CHAIRMAN NIKLASSON (SWEDEN) TO GIVE A SEPARATE
PRESS BRIEFING. LEVY ALSO SUGGESTED TOPICS OF ICSID
EXPANSION AND IMF/IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PROPOSALS
BE ADDED TO OECD AGENDA. END SUMMARY

2. IN DISCUSSION OF NIKLASSON PROPOSAL THAT LEVY
MAKE STATEMENT TO TUAC/BIAC ON STATUS OF WORK OF GROUP

HE CHAIRS ON TUAC CASES, USDEL TOOK LEAD IN STRESSING THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENT MUST AVOID DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC CASES, OR DIFFERENCES AND CONCLUSIONS OF GROUP BEYOND NOTING IDENTIFICATION OF GENERAL ISSUES FOR GUIDELINES REVIEW. HE SAID NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT DELS WOULD NOT TAKE POSITIONS ON ISSUES MENTIONED BY LEVY WAS ESSENTIAL TO US AGREEMENT TO THIS PROCEDURE. GROUP MEMBERS GENERALLY AGREED THAT LEVY STATEMENT ON THIS BASIS SHOULD BE MADE, ALTHOUGH NIKLASSON CLEARLY UNHAPPY WITH PROPOSED RESTRICTION ON DEL COMMENTS. LEVY EARLY ON IN DISCUSSION INDICATED HE WOULD RELY ON OECD SECRETARIAT REPORT ON WORK OF HIS GROUP, WHICH APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO GROUP. CHAIRMAN COLLI (CANADA) URGED GOVERNMENTS WITH PROBLEMS ON SECRETARIAT REPORT TO MAKE THEM KNOWN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. ON PRESS RELEASE REF A, DELS SEEMED TO AGREE PARA 8 WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AND SHOULD BE REDRAFTED AND CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE OF APRIL 11 CONSULTATIONS.

4. NIKLASSON EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO HOLD PRESS BRIEFING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING APRIL 11 CONSULTATIONS. HE HAD SUPPORT FROM LEVY, WHO NOTED TUAC AND BIAC WERE LOOKING TO GOVERNMENTS FOR GUIDANCE ON PRESS RELATIONS. USDEL EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN TO PRESS ON APRIL 11, BUT INDICATED WRAP-UP BRIEFING ON FULL RANGE OF CIME WORK ON APRIL 13 COULD BE CONSIDERED; INDIVIDUAL DELS WOULD OF COURSE BE FREE TO BRIEF PRESS ON THEIR OWN ATTITUDES. WHILE COLLI SAW SOME MERIT IN SUCH A POST MEETING BRIEFING, MOST DELS, INCLUDING UK AND FRENCH SYMPATHIZED WITH NIKLASSON AND LEVY THAT PRESS BRIEFING ON APRIL 13 WOULD BE IGNORED, AND THAT IF PRESS BRIEFING WERE HELD AT ALL IT SHOULD BE ON APRIL 11 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MAXIMUM PRESS ATTENTION AND TO AVOID INTERNAL CIME DEBATE ON PRESS MATTERS DURING ITS APRIL 12-13 SESSION. IN VIEW OF US OPPOSITION, MINIMUM COMMON DENOMINATOR FOR GROUP WOULD SEEM TO BE AGREEMENT ON A BACKGROUND INFO RELEASE FOR THE PRESS.

5. ON OTHER POINTS, LEVY MENTIONED THAT RECENT TUAC AND BIAC CONTACTS INDICATED THAT TUAC WILL BE PRESENTING A NEW BATCH OF "POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE" CASES, BUT NO "COMPLAINTS" AT SESSION, EXPANDING SCOPE BEYOND EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR GUIDELINES (E.G., TO INFORMATION). BOTH TUAC AND BBAC HAVE STRESSED TO LEVY DESIRE FOR

CLOSER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THEMSELVES. ADVANCE
COPIES OF BIAC CROGRESS REPORT ON SUPPORT OF GUIDE-
LINES WERE DISTRIBUTED BY LEVY.

6. LEVY ALSO TOOK NOTE OF INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
THE SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES (ICSID) EXPANSION
PROPOSALS BY ITS DIRECTOR, DISCUSSED AT A POORLY ATTENDED
JANUARY MEETING IN PARIS. LEVY SUGGESTED OECD COMMON
VIEW BE FORMED THROUGH CONSULTATIONS IN CIME OR AD
HOC GROUP IN NEAR FUTURE, EXPRESSING PREFERENCE FOR

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LATTER. HE ALSO SUGGESTED RECENT IMF/IBRD DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE PAPERS ON INVESTMENT BE DISCUSSED EITHER IN
JULY CIME OR CONTACT GROUP. REACTION TO BOTH PROPOSALS
WAS POSITIVE. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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